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020 CHRONOS RULER

BY PON JEA

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We are always recruiting experienced REDRAWERS and TYPESETTERS for all of our series, espacially **Chronos Ruler** and **Hinomaru Zumou**.
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彭傑（ポンジェー）
発行／翻翻・漫画行（ファンファン マン ガ コウ）
協力／友善文創（ユウ ゼン ブン ソウ）
(Friendly Land)

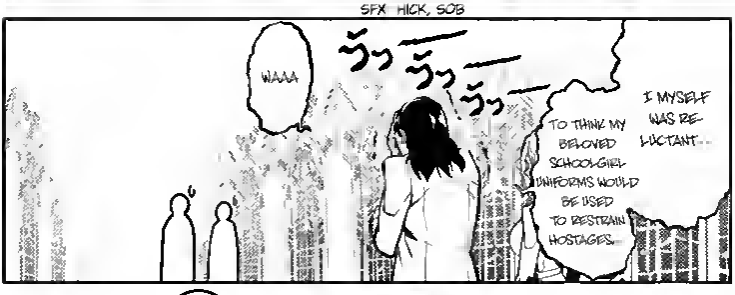
00:00:20 INFORMATION GATHERING

時間の支配者（クロノス ルーラー）
CHRONOS RULER

VICTOR!
WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU!?
ダダダダダダ!!
DO YA WANNA DIE THAT BADLY!?
GOIN' BACK TO HQ ON YOUR OWN
IS JUST TOO DANGEROUS, YA FUCKIN' IDIOT!

YOUR SON IS WORRIED HALF TO DEATH OVER HERE!
COME ON OUT, DUMBASS!
OHHH
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR BIG BRO WORRYING ABOUT HIS LITTLE BRO?
SAME AS A KID WORRYING ABOUT HIS FOLKS
EMBARRASSING MY ASS!
.....
...Could you please just stop...?
This is embarrassing
...JUST WHEN DID I BECOME YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?

HELLO AGAIN, MR. KIRI! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HALE AND HEALTHY!
WORRY NOT!
VICTOR IS ALSO OKAY!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY; ALL OF THIS WAS SIMPLY TO GAUGE YOUR TRUE STRENGTH.
IT WAS A TEST DEVISED BY THE CHIEF.

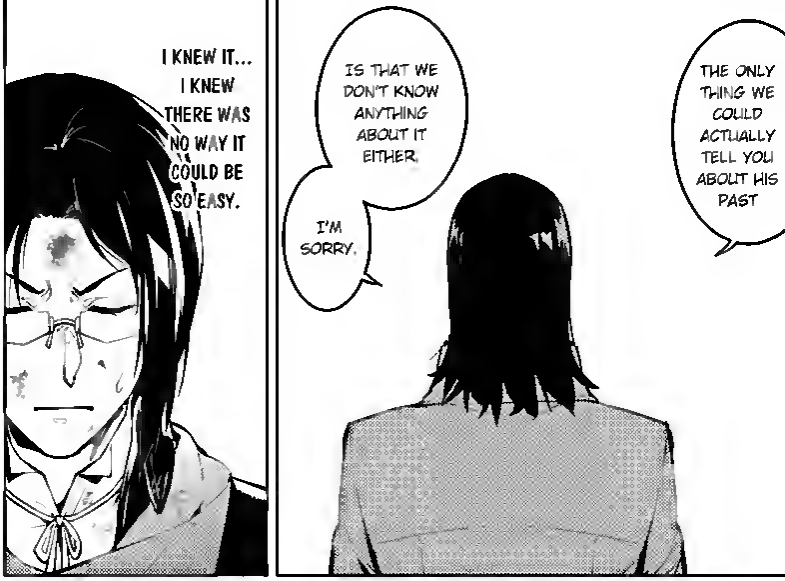

SFX HICK, SOB
WAAA
I MYSELF WAS RELUCTANT...
TO THINK MY BELOVED SCHOOLGIRL UNIFORMS WOULD BE USED TO RESTRAIN HOSTAGES...

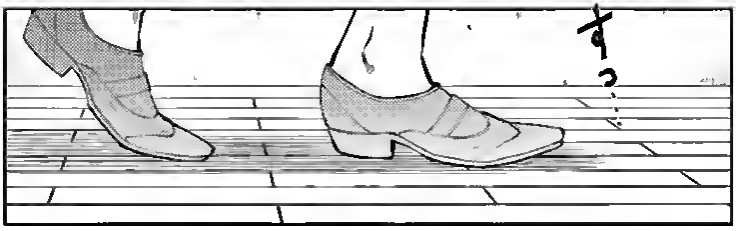
NOW, PUTTING JOKES ASIDE
THAT WHICH YOU TWO SOUGHT...
ARE THERE NO *NORMAL* PEOPLE WITHIN CHRONOS' RANKS?

Mission Record
VICTOR PUTIN
WAS VICTOR'S MISSION RECORD, WAS IT NOT?
IT IS, IN FACT, HERE AT HQ!

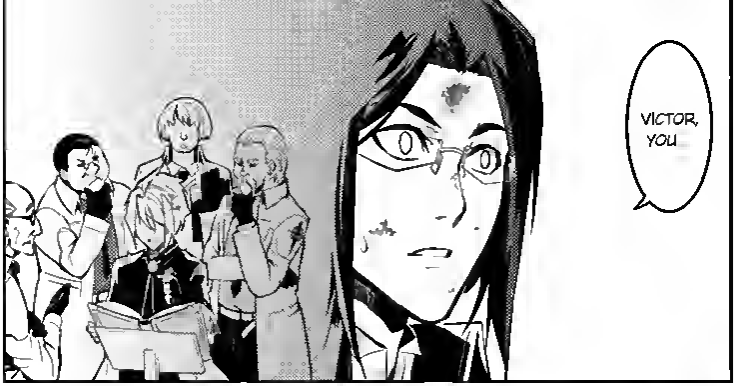
HOWEVER, ALL OF ITS CONTENTS ARE CODED...
OR, AT LEAST, SEEM TO BE, GOING BY ITS MYSTERIOUS SCRIPT.

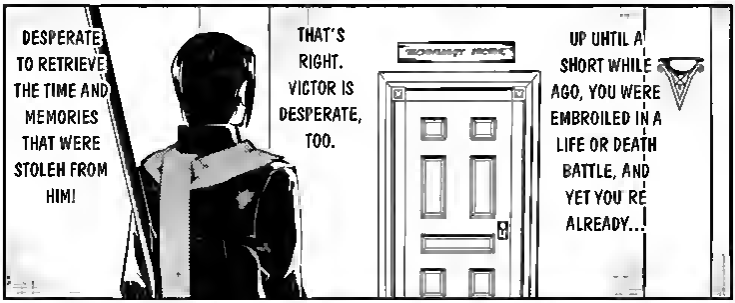
WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE HAD A KID.
HE WASN'T HERE VERY MUCH, SO EVEN BACK THEN HE WAS A PUZZLE OF A MAN...
WHICH IS WHY...


I KNEW IT... I KNEW THERE WAS NO WAY IT COULD BE SO EASY.
I'M SORRY.
IS THAT WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT EITHER.
THE ONLY THING WE COULD ACTUALLY TELL YOU ABOUT HIS PAST



TECHNOLOGY SECTION
THE MAN WHO WROTE IT HIMSELF MIGHT BE ABLE TO READ IT, AFTER ALL
TO ATTEMPT TO DECIPHER THE RECORD
RIGHT NOW HE'S COOPERATING WITH THE ENGINEERING DIVISION


VICTOR, YOU...

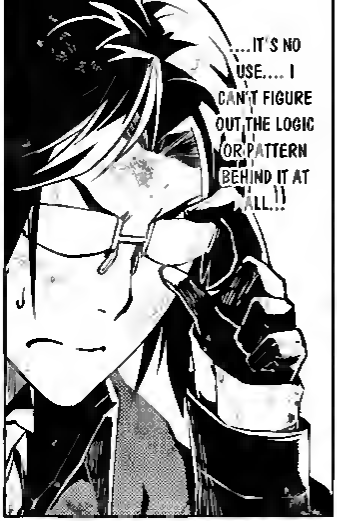

DESPERATE TO RETRIEVE THE TIME AND MEMORIES THAT WERE STOLEN FROM HIM!
THAT'S RIGHT. VICTOR IS DESPERATE, TOO.
UP UNTIL A SHORT WHILE AGO, YOU WERE EMBROILED IN A LIFE OR DEATH BATTLE, AND YET YOU'RE ALREADY...

OH HEY, IS THAT YOU, KIRI?
SO YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
AWESOME!

VICTOR
I...
カチャ

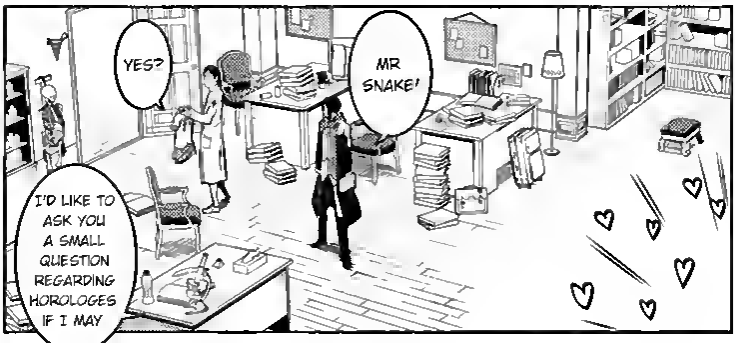
WHAT SAY YOU JOIN US?
Um, my . my name is Lan'en
I was only a little girl 12 years go. so you might not remember me, sir but
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, LITTLE LADY...
DID YOU FORGET BECAUSE IT'S BEEN 12 YEARS?
I TOLD YOU, MY NAME IS WENDY!
MY PURE-HEARTED SON, CYTEELA HONEY!
HUH? WHO'S HE . ?
HAHAHA, MY BAD, MY BAD, I'LL TAKE A NOTE.

AS THOUGH I COULD EVER FORGET A BORN BEAUTY LIKE YOU!
HOW ABOUT THE BLONDE BOMBSHELL OVER THERE?
HUH? WHAT PROMISE WAS THAT AGAIN?
I'M ISABELE ...
UHHM... ERMM... YOU MEANIE, I'M TOO EMBARRASSED TO SAY!
IS... IS THE PROMISE THAT WE MADE THAT NIGHT... STILL IN EFFECT?
S-stop it, Mr Victon.. you're embarrassing me!
GOOD GRIEF, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK, HERE...
COULD IT BE JEALOUSY? MR GLOOMYPANTS
.....
DROP DEAD!!!
YOU DISGUSTING LECH!!!
I'LL DECIPHER IT MYSELF!
HAND THAT OVER!


....IT'S NO USE.... I CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE LOGIC OR PATTERN BEHIND IT AT ALL!!

.....

I'LL NEED TO GATHER SOME MORE INFOR-MATION FIRST.
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE IT TO VICTOR...
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRY...


YES?
MR SNAKE!
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A SMALL QUESTION REGARDING HOROLOGES IF I MAY

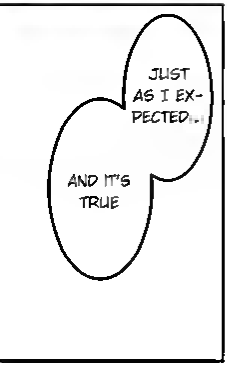
WE ENCOUNTERED THE HOROLOGE THAT ROBBED VICTOR'S TIME AT A GAMBLING DEN.
IT WAS NOT ONLY EXTREMELY IMMENSE AND PURE WHITE, BUT COULD EVEN SPEAK AND HOLD A CONVERSATION.
IT WAS CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM THE HOROLOGES WE'D FACED UNTIL THEN.
IS THERE ANY RECORD OF SUCH A HOROLOGE APPEARING ELSEWHERE?
A HOROLOGE THAT'S PURE WHITE
AND CAN SPEAK...
SINCE CHRONOS WAS FOUNDED...
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
ONLY ...
I'M SORRY...

AS YOU KNOW
THE DIET OF HOROLOGES CONSISTS OF THE TIME OF HUMANS
THEY ARE LED BY THEIR INSTINCT, AND ACT WITHOUT A CONSCIOUS WILL
WITH HOROLOGES THAT POSSESS THE CAPACITY FOR LANGUAGE
THERE HAVE BEEN INNUMERABLE ENCOUNTERS
ガシガシ
HOWEVER, IN PROPORTION TO THE AMOUNT OF TIME EATEN, THEY BECOME INFLUENCED BY THE MEMORIES EMBEDDED IN THAT RAW TIME, AND GROW A CONSCIOUSNESS OF SORTS AS THEIR NEXT LEVEL OF EVOLUTION
IT'S SAID THAT THEY BECOME CAPABLE OF COMPREHENDING THE TONGUES OF HUMANKIND
AND ONCE A HOROLOGE HAS REACHED THE 5,000 YEAR LEVEL
AT THIS LEVEL, THEY ARE OBSERVED WITH SIMPLE EMOTIONS AND THE ABILITY TO LEARN
AT AROUND 1,000 YEARS AND ABOVE THEY TAKE ON AN ANIMALISTIC APPEARANCE THOUGH THEY ARE STILL HOROLOGES THEY'LL RESEMBLE BEASTS OF PREY NOT UNLIKE LIONS AND THE LIKE

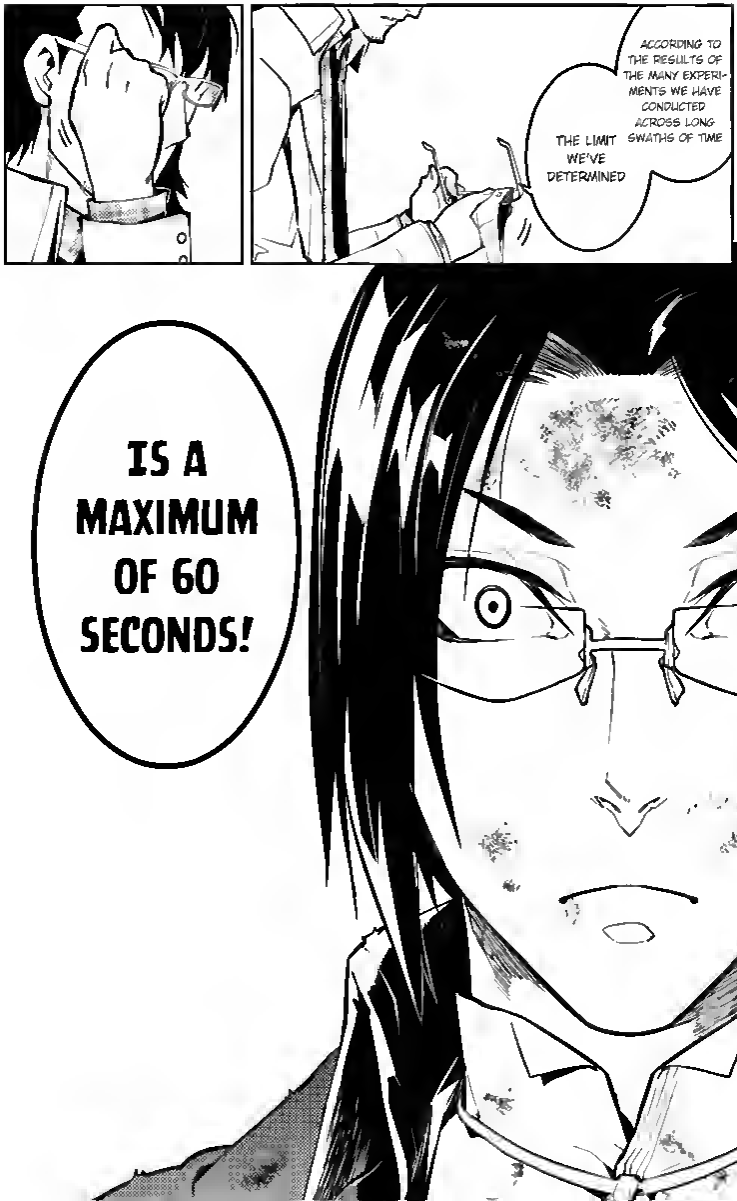
MR. KIRI, YOU BELIEVE...
I SEE...

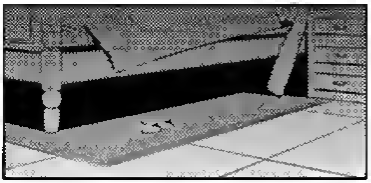
IN THE PAST 20 YE. RS, I'VE NEVER COME ACROSS A HOROLOGE THAT COULD SPEAK.
KEEP IN MIND THESE ARE JUST THINGS I EITHER SAW PRINTED IN OUR DOCUMENTS, OR HEARD FROM THE CHIEF HERSELF...

THAT IF YOU TAKE DOWN THE HOROLOGE THAT ATE VICTOR'S TIME
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE THAT TIME, CORRECT?


JUST AS I EX-PECTED..
AND IT'S TRUE

IF YOU TAKE DOWN A HOROLOGE
THE STOLEN TIME HAS A CHANCE OF RETURNING TO ITS PREVIOUS OWNER.
KILL!
THAT IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE WHEN KILLING HOROLOGES WHO ATE SOMEONE'S TIME RIGHT BEFORE THEIR DEFEAT
WE HAVE DATA TESTIFYING THAT THE STOLEN TIME WOULD INDEED HAVE A HIGH PROBABILITY OF RETURNING.
.....
REALISTICALLY
WHAT IS THE ROUGH TIME LIMIT FOR MEMORY RETRIEVAL?
BUT THE MORE TIME ELAPSES SINCE THAT TIME IS STOLEN
THE LESS HOPEFUL IT BECOMES.
WE HAVE NO EXAMPLES ON RECORD OF SUCCESSFUL MEMORY RESTORATION AFTER THAT TIME WINDOW SUCCEEDING ONLY IN STOPPING THE TARGET'S TIME-LOSS AT BEST.

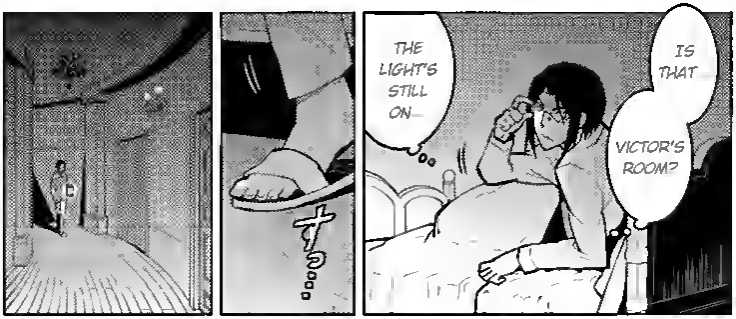

ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE MANY EXPERIMENTS WE HAVE CONDUCTED ACROSS LONG SWATHS OF TIME
THE LIMIT WE'VE DETERMINED
IS A MAXIMUM OF 60 SECONDS!

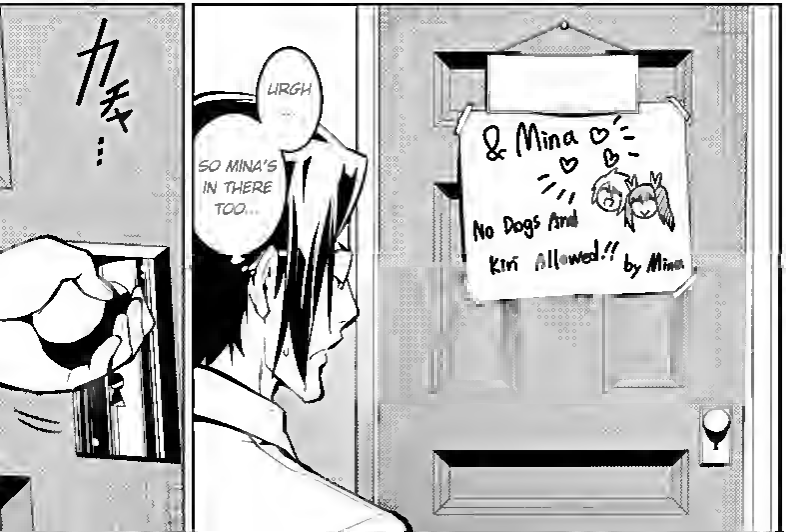


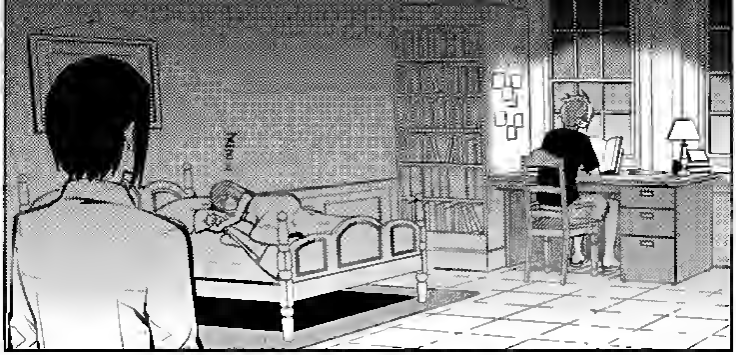
A MAXIMUM OF
60 SECONDS...

AHHH...
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE RESTLESS I BECOME.

THEN THAT WOULD MAKE RETRIEVING VICTOR'S LOST TIME IMPOSSIBLE, WOULDN'T IT...


THE LIGHT'S STILL ON...
IS THAT VICTOR'S ROOM?


カチャ…
HRGH...
SO MINA'S IN THERE TOO...
& Mina
No Dogs And Kiri Allowed!! by Mina

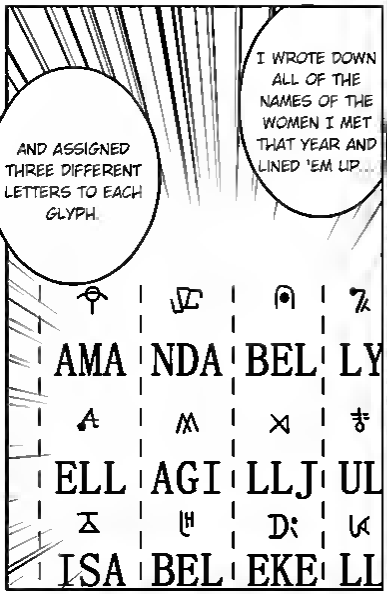


Mission Record

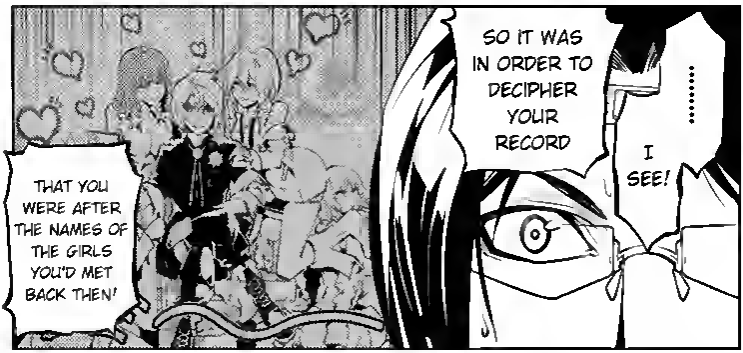
VICTOR...
WHAT ARE YOU...

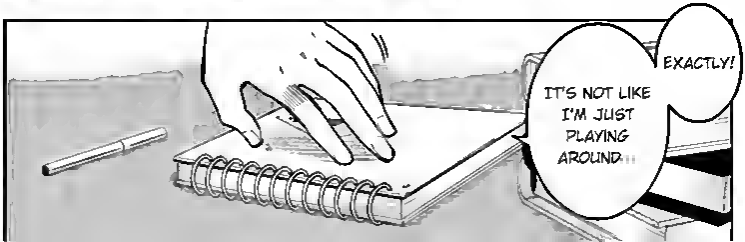
STILL AWAKE, HUH?
HUH? OH, IT'S YOU, KIRI.

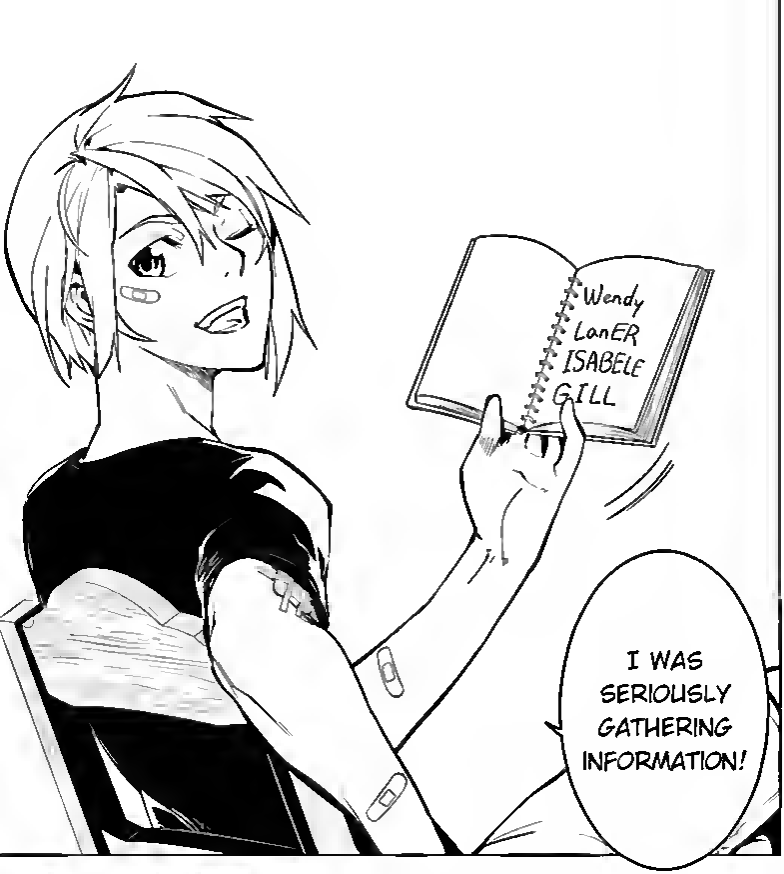
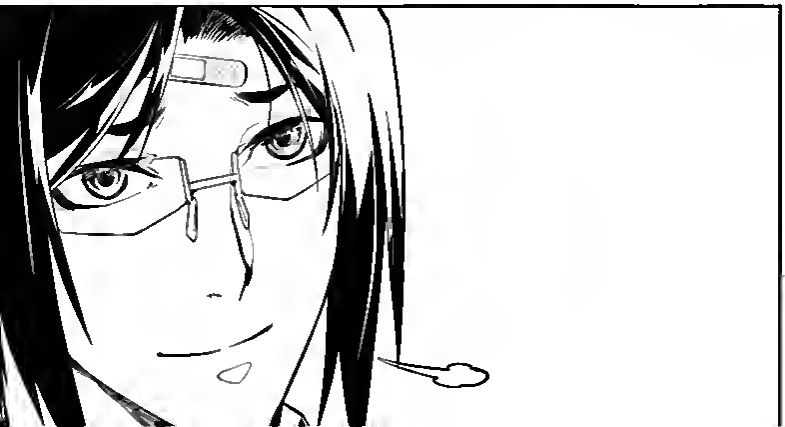
YOU... YOU DECIPHERED IT?
GREAT TIMING.
I GOT A ROUGH HANDLE ON THIS THING!
EACH SINGLE GLYPH CORRESPONDS TO 3 LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET.
THOUGH I SWITCHED UP THE CIPHER EVERY YEAR!
≠X
=XYZ
I CAME UP WITH THESE GLYPHS WHEN I WAS WORKING THE CASINO SCENE.
SO HOW DID YOU FIGURE OUT THE CIPHER?
.....


I WROTE DOWN ALL OF THE NAMES OF THE WOMEN I MET THAT YEAR AND LINED 'EM UP...
AND ASSIGNED THREE DIFFERENT LETTERS TO EACH GLYPH.
AMA
NDA
BEL
LY
ELL
AGI
LLJ
UL
ISA
BEL
EKE
LL

ALL OF THESE...
ARE WOMEN'S NAMES!


THAT YOU WERE AFTER THE NAMES OF THE GIRLS YOU'D MET BACK THEN!
SO IT WAS IN ORDER TO DECIPHER YOUR RECORD
I SEE!


EXACTLY!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M JUST PLAYING AROUND...


Wendy
LanER
ISABELE
GILL
I WAS SERIOUSLY GATHERING INFORMATION!


THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHAT I WROTE IS ALL ABOUT THE WOMEN THEMSELVES, AND I WROTE ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT CRUCIAL MISSION STUFF!
WELL, I DECIPHERED THE CODE, BUT.
2002. 7 21
THAT BEING SAID, ON THIS DAY IN 2002
JULY 21ST, I LEFT BEHIND A DETAILED RECORD
COULD IT BE...
3 DAYS BEFORE IT HAPPENED!
FINALLY, THEY'VE GRASPED A NEW CLUE TOWARDS HIS MEMORIES!!
YOUR FINAL MISSION!